

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING LEONARDO AGRICOLA BISCARI FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Leonardo Agricola Biscari of Independence, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 865, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Leonardo will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 12, 2004, at St. Mark's Catholic Church in Independence, MO.

Leonardo has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Leonardo has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Leonardo Agricola Biscari for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on September 16, the Hispanic Recognitions Awards Committee Incorporated in the City of New Bedford, Massachusetts will have its annual ceremony, giving awards to a number of individuals and organizations. The recipients of these awards, to be presented at 5 p.m. at New Bedford High School on September 16, have distinguished themselves by their dedication and energy on behalf of the Hispanic community in our area, and on behalf of the community as a whole. I congratulate Emilio E. Cruz for the work he has done in making this possible, and I wish to join Mr. Cruz and others in recognizing the important community service performed by these recipients.

The list of awards and those receiving them is as follows: Community Organization Award 2004—Catholic Social Services; Cultural Achievement Award 2004—Johnny Arellano; Youth Award 2004—Chayrel Adams; Health Awards 2004—Marta Gonzalez; Education Award 2004—Sara Rodriguez; Public Safety Award 2004—Jose A. Perez; Latino Organization Award 2004—Association Maya Kiche USA, Inc.; Community Service/Leadership Award 2004—Reverend Abraham Torres; The Rising Star Award 2004—Marilyn Vega.

RECOGNIZING JEREMIAH COOMES FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jeremiah Coomes of Smithville, MO, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 447, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Jeremiah will receive the Eagle Scout Award at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor on September 19, 2004 at River of Life Church in Kansas City, MO.

Jeremiah has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jeremiah has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Jeremiah Coomes for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, three years since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we solemnly remember those who risked their lives, those whose lives were lost and those they left behind.

America changed forever that day. Some called 9-11 America's wake up call.

The actions of first responders and everyday citizens give true meaning to the word hero. I applaud the resolution in the House today for honoring their service and the memories of those no longer with us.

But sadly, Mr. Speaker, I must tell you that this resolution is flawed. While it rightfully honors the victims and heroes of September 11, it misleadingly connects the invasion of Iraq with the war on terrorism. Iraq did not start the U.S. global war on terrorism—Osama bin Laden did.

Despite that fact, after only four months of hunting for bin Laden, the U.S. began redirecting military and intelligence personnel from his pursuit in Afghanistan to preparing for war with Iraq.

The President then declared in a press conference that, "I don't know where [bin Laden]

is. You know, I just don't spend that much time on him . . . I truly am not that concerned about him."

The President was clearly at odds with his terrorism advisers.

The FBI was concerned about him. It said that al-Qaeda remained the "number one concern."

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge was concerned about him. He said America was still bin Laden's number 1 target.

Despite all this, what did the President do?

He shortchanged homeland security needs like port, rail and border security. He reduced law enforcement funding by over 30 percent. And he became less concerned with the man who started the war on terrorism and more concerned with Saddam Hussein—a man the 9-11 Commission determined had no operational connection to al Qaeda and who played no role in the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Did this make America any safer? If so, redirecting resources from hunting the world's number one terrorist in order to invade Iraq might have made sense. But the fact is, the invasion in Iraq has made us less, not more, secure.

And because of that fact, we do ourselves as a country and the memories of those who were lost on September 11, 2001 a great disservice by misrepresenting the facts.

The invasion of Iraq did not deny terrorists a safe haven from which to operate, but rather it created one. In fact, because of poor planning and inadequate troop levels, U.S. forces in Iraq have withdrawn from unstable areas like Falluja, Ramadi and Samarra allowing them to become foreign terrorist safehavens. The low troop level has also prevented the U.S. from sealing off the borders and allowed foreign terrorists to enter Iraq at will.

More American Service members have been killed since the President announced that all major combat operations had ended than before that time. All told, over 1,000 soldiers have been killed, 7,000 wounded, and the rate at which American soldiers are being killed is rapidly increasing.

With all that said, the President still speaks of "taking the fight to the enemy" so that we don't have to fight him at home. But the Department of Homeland Security had to raise the terrorist alert level four times since the invasion of Iraq. And Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has said, "[al Qaeda] is still determined to strike."

The Bush Administration would still lead us to believe that al Qaeda is no longer a threat because two thirds of its senior leadership have been captured or killed. But Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld says "it's almost impossible to have metrics" that determine whether Al Qaeda and other terrorist groups are being drained of support around the world. In fact some experts still put al Qaeda's end strength at close to 18,000.

Secretary Rumsfeld went on to say that the War on Terrorism is not "a military problem alone." In fact the overreliance on military

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

means to address the threat of terrorism might have done more to help al Qaeda recruit new members than it did to shrink the organization.

So what lessons have we learned three years later?

Iraq had nothing to do with 9–11; our invasion of Iraq made us more, not less vulnerable to terrorist attack; despite capturing and killing al Qaeda leaders, the organization remains operational; we shortchanged homeland security; and the President's attempt to make America safer by taking the fight to the enemy and invading Iraq has done nothing to deter bin Laden's desire to attack the U.S. again.

The administration has failed to adequately address the worldwide threat of terror. It has alienated much of the international community and failed to assemble an effective coalition. We honor the fallen today, but we must also refocus America's foreign and security policy.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST UNITED STATES ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, we will never forget the events of September 11, 2001—where we were, how we felt and how the America people came together as one Nation, undivided.

On the third anniversary of this tragedy, we again stand together to honor the victims and their loved ones, and to pay tribute to the women and men who continue to protect and defend our Nation at home and around the world.

As the American people move forward, we also know our lives have forever been changed. We understand the threat of terrorism is a reality that must be confronted and prevented. Yet, the spirit of this strong, proud Nation will overcome this threat and prevail against adversaries who attempt to harm us.

As we look to the future, we must not forget the past. We must understand how and why the events of 9/11 happened and we must remain determined to keep our homeland and our families safe and secure. And, forever, we must remember the 3,000 men and women who lost their lives on this tragic day—they are forever enshrined in the memory of our nation.

RECOGNIZING EXCELSIOR SPRINGS
FOOTBALL AND THE OFFICIAL
OPENING OF TIGER STADIUM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Excelsior Springs Football Tigers, a team steeped in history with a promising future, thanks in part to the new Tiger Stadium, which is officially opening tonight, September 10, 2004.

Excelsior Springs football was first played about 1910 on "Old Lady Reed's Field" near Superior Street. In 1920, games were moved to Association Park, a location that later became the site of the old high school football field that officially became Roosevelt Field in 1938. The stone wall surrounding the field was built during the FDR era as a WPA project to provide area jobs after the Great Depression. In 1984, major renovations brought the field and track up to state regulations and new lighting was installed. In the '90s, however, the location started to become a problem: the field was plagued by repeated flooding from Fishing River, the field was now across town from the high school, and parking was more inadequate with each passing year. Early in the 2000s, the community passed a bond issue to build a Performing Arts Center, which opened in fall 2003, a new Career Center building, which will open in January 2005, and this Tiger Stadium, officially opening tonight September 10, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating the people of Excelsior Springs on their new Tiger Stadium, and wishing the Tigers the best of luck in their new home.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST UNITED STATES ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday our nation will stop and reflect on the terrible events that occurred three years ago on that day. Each of us will remember in vivid detail where we were and what we were doing when we realized that America had come under murderous attack by cowardly terrorists. We will remember the way that firemen and policemen rushed into burning buildings to save lives. We will remember the heroism of the passengers and crew of Flight 93. We will remember the 3,000 friends, family and loved ones who died that day, and we will pay a debt of thanks to the men and women of our military who continue the fight against terrorism in far off places.

And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, will recall the spirit of bipartisanship that pervaded Washington in the days that followed—how Members of Congress stood together on the steps of the Capitol, singing "God Bless America" in one strong voice. As we consider the events of that day, I urge my colleagues to recapture that spirit and move quickly to adopt the reforms of the September 11th Commission. By doing so, we will improve our intelligence gathering capabilities, improve coordination between government agencies and strengthen Congressional oversight of the intelligence community.

As Americans stop to consider how much the world has changed in these three years, it is imperative that the Congress do all that it can to ensure that our government changes with the world. Every day that goes by without action to embrace the reforms of the Commission is a day that our ability to prevent another 9/11 is limited.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM M. RAINE
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William M. Raine of Parkville, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. William will receive his Eagle Scout Award on September 12, 2004, at the Theodore Naish Scout Reservation in Bonner Springs, Kansas.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William M. Raine for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING CORY HOGAN FOR
ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Cory Hogan of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 357, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Cory has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Cory has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Cory Hogan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE
HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED
AGAINST UNITED STATES ON
SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss H. Res. 757, legislation commemorating the third anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks against our country.

I remember September 11, 2001, vividly. The weather in our Nation's capital was warm

and sunny. I was giving a speech on the House floor. Soon after I finished, the Capitol building was evacuated. I did not know until I got back to my office that planes had hit the World Trade Center buildings in New York and that a third plane that may have been headed toward the Capitol building was taken down in a field in Pennsylvania. I am profoundly grateful that the passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 bravely fought back, thinking of the safety of others, not of their own well-being. Their actions saved the lives of untold numbers of us who were in Washington, D.C. that day.

The resolution on the floor today appropriately honors those who lost their lives due to these heinous attacks. Thousands of husbands, fathers, mothers, wives, daughters, brothers, children, grandparents and others were lost on that day. We must never forget those individuals and their families.

The resolution also honors the heroic actions and sacrifices of our men and women in the U.S. military and their families. I have had the privilege of visiting with dozens of our men and women in uniform, both here at home and in a war zone. I am continually awed by the professionalism, determination, and commitment of our troops.

I am also pleased that H. Res. 757 acknowledges the service and sacrifice of the first responders—emergency personnel, fire fighters, police officers, and others—who aided the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks. While these individuals humbly say they were merely doing their jobs that day, their selfless actions embody some of the best qualities of the American people.

Finally, the resolution congratulates the Congress and the President for various steps taken to improve the security of the American people in the wake of September 11th.

While Congress has adopted some piecemeal improvements on the security front, al-Qaeda will not wait for us to make gradual improvements. Security must be improved today, not after the next attack.

Congress and the Bush administration must stop the finger pointing, turf protection, and minor tweaking that have been the primary features of the Federal government's response to 9/11. It is time for bolder action.

Aviation security is not what it should be. Security screeners need the same upgraded equipment used in congressional office buildings and the White House. We need to deploy technology to detect plastic explosives carried on board planes. We must screen employees and vendors who work on the runways and have access to planes, but who are not currently screened at all. All cargo carried on passenger planes must be tested for explosives. We need effective countermeasures and international agreements to reduce the threat of shoulder-fired missiles. The arbitrary cap on the number of security screeners should be lifted.

A fully unified terrorist watch list that is electronically accessible to necessary Federal and State officials for real-time searches must be put in place now.

Border security is still notably lacking, three years after 9/11. The Federal government should hire 3,000 additional border inspectors and border patrol agents to secure our borders with Canada and Mexico. Existing technologies, like remote sensors, long-range cameras, and unmanned aerial vehicles,

should monitor all 7,000 miles of our border 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Astonishingly, on the 3rd anniversary of the attacks, America's police, firefighters, and emergency response personnel still lack the fundamental ability to communicate with each other by radio. Congress must increase funding to help States and local governments purchase essential equipment.

Our Nation has 95,000 miles of coastline and 361 ports. Yet, the Federal government will spend only \$46 million on port security grants this year while spending \$10 billion to develop a missile defense system that is irrelevant to the threat posed by al-Qaeda. Congress should increase funding for radiation detection equipment to screen every cargo container, beef up the presence of U.S. inspectors at foreign ports to inspect cargo destined for the U.S., and enhance the Coast Guard fleet.

Five times as many Americans travel on trains and transit each day as on planes, but less than two percent of the transportation security budget goes to non-aviation programs. Congress and the Administration should increase funding for passenger rail and transit security. A baseline level of security for the transit systems in the 50 largest metropolitan areas would cost \$2 billion.

Most of the 20 tons of nuclear material at 130 facilities in 40 countries has no more security than a night watchman and a chain link fence. In 2001, a bipartisan commission recommended tripling funding to \$3 billion a year for programs to help secure nuclear materials around the world from terrorists.

Finally, I want to say that I am disappointed that H. Res. 757 contains several whereas clauses implying a link between al-Qaeda and Iraq, and Iraq and the September 11th attacks. A variety of experts, including the 9/11 Commission and the Senate Intelligence Committee, have concluded there was no cooperation between Iraq and al-Qaeda on the September 11, 2001, attacks or anything else. It is also inappropriate to link Iraq to the global war against al-Qaeda. Iraq did not pose an urgent threat to our national security. Iraq did not have ties to al-Qaeda. Iraq had not attacked the United States, nor is there any evidence Iraq planned to attack us. Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction, nor any delivery system capable of attacking us.

I supported the war against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, and I continue to support military action against al-Qaeda. But, to use a resolution commemorating the anniversary of 9/11 to peddle discredited theories about Iraq in order to cover for the failures of the Bush administration in Iraq and justify the diversion of resources from the war against our real national security threat—al-Qaeda—does a disservice to the American people.

I will vote in favor of H. Res. 757 because I want to honor those I mentioned at the outset of my statement—those who lost their lives in the attacks, those who tried valiantly to save lives on that day, and our men and women in uniform. But, I want to state for the record that I disagree with some of the rhetoric in the resolution.

RECOGNIZING MATTHEW EMERY ECKARD FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Matthew Emery Eckard, an outstanding young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Matthew has been active with his troop by participating in many Scout activities. Over the 14 years Matt has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 29 merit badges. Matt set the goal in 2001 to be the youngest Eagle Scout in Kansas City. I am proud of him for achieving this goal and becoming the fifth youngest Eagle Scout in the whole United States. He was a 3-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and is a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Matt repainted and surveyed the only Corp of Engineers flood gauge on Line Creek beneath Vivion Road in Riverside, Missouri. This gauge is the official marker used to measure the creek in the flood of 1993.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Matthew Emery Eckard for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

CENTENARY OF ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, this is a time for celebration of higher education in the Green Mountain State: One hundred years ago Saint Michael's College was founded in Winooski, Vermont.

In the past century the college has seen its enrollment burgeon from 34 students to 1,900 students. It has grown from very modest beginnings into a major institution of higher education, widely known as one of the finest liberal arts colleges in the Northeast, and one of the premier Catholic colleges in America. With the diversity of its student body, and its long history as one of the first schools to offer education in teaching English as a second language, its reputation for academic excellence is not just national but international.

Priests of the Society of St. Edmund emigrated to North America, fleeing religious persecution in France in the late nineteenth century. They settled in Vermont, and changed forever the shape of education in their adopted state.

As an order dedicated to education, the Edmundites founded Saint Michael's College in 1904. With an initial investment of \$5,000 they began the college on the Kelly Farm in Winooski Park. Their initial effort was modest, just under three dozen students ranging in age from 10 to 22. Few, except the visionary

founders, would have believed that from such small beginnings would emerge the thriving institution which, a century later, is widely known for both its rigorous academic program and its deep commitment to service.

The founders themselves probably did not foresee that the college, originally open only to men, would go co-educational in 1970, or that its commitment to excellence in every pursuit—in developing the ethical as well as the intellectual and spiritual side of human existence, in improving the body as well as the mind—would lead to the Ice Knights winning the NCAA Division II hockey championship. (Nor have the women far behind: in 2000 the St. Michael's field hockey team advanced to the NCAA Division II Final Four.) The founders knew they were sowing the seeds for building character and giving a base for achievement in the secular world, but even they could not have foreseen that graduates of St. Michael's would serve in the United States Senate, and head some of America's largest and most important corporations, or win the Pulitzer Prize. Many graduates serve their fellow men and women, here and abroad, with great dedication, though that they could have foreseen, for commitment to the welfare of the underprivileged and dispossessed has always been central to the Edmundite mission.

Today, the 1,900 full-time undergraduate students at St. Michael's reside in an environment in which learning takes place both in and out of the classroom. In addition to its undergraduates, a multitude of graduate and international students experience its commitment to moral and ethical development, a commitment inspired by the strong Edmundite tradition of service. Although it is now run by a secular Board of Trustees, and no longer are the majority of its teachers Edmundite priests, St. Michael's still is guided by the spirit of its founding order, the recognition that service and education are inextricably linked, and intellectual growth must proceed in concert with spiritual and ethical deepening.

St. Michael's was one of the first colleges to institute an Alternative Spring Break, enabling students to work in inner cities and rural areas to rebuild communities and provide needed services. Today, the college lives out its commitment to service in many ways at home and abroad. In the past few years, student programs have gone to Calcutta, Tanzania, Haiti and elsewhere to learn and do good work. St. Michael's remains dedicated to teaching biology and literature, history and philosophy—but is also enduringly dedicated to working with the impoverished, the homeless, and the victims of AIDS.

It is a particular mark of St. Michael's excellence that it was recently invited to join the elite ranks of colleges and universities hosting Phi Beta Kappa chapters on campus.

And Saint Michael's continues to grow ever stronger academically. For fourteen consecutive years it has been highly rated in rankings of colleges by US News and World Report, and in 2003 it was identified by Newsweek magazine as one of thirty "hidden treasure" colleges that deserve wider national recognition.

Under the able leadership of President Marc vanderHeyden, a dedicated and excellent faculty teaches courses which are at the cutting edge of knowledge, while still rooted in the great traditions of learning. The staff at the college are as committed to excellence and

the growth of students as are the faculty. The alumni, those prior generations of St. Michael's students, have gone on to do significant work in the world, serving as models for the engaged students of today, and contribute as generous benefactors to the fiscal well-being of the college.

I have spoken at St. Michael's, met with classes there, and had its students serve as interns in my office. So I say with confidence that its students are remarkable young people, for they embody that dedication to conjoining learning with service which is the hallmark of the college.

As St. Michael's College moves into its second century, the people of Vermont salute its past achievement and its present accomplishment. Situated above the Winooski River, overlooking the splendors of Mount Mansfield, it is my firm expectation that St. Michael's College and its campus community will continue to sparkle, a bright jewel in the Green Mountain State.

RECOGNIZING DANIEL BRYAN DUDDY FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Daniel Bryan Duddy, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 444, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Bryan has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 10 years Bryan has been involved with Scouting, he has earned numerous merit badges and held several leadership positions. Bryan served as both Patrol and Senior Patrol Leader, was a 2-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and is a Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Bryan is also a current Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow.

For his Eagle Scout project, Bryan constructed several permanent seating benches around the campfire rings at Tall Oaks Christian camp.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Daniel Bryan Duddy for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

2004 TEXAS HONOR SCHOOL BOARD FOR LEWISVILLE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate one of my hometown school districts for its outstanding achievements and recently being named a 2004 Texas Honor School Board by the Texas Association of School Administrators.

Among the factors that resulted in the recognition of the Lewisville School Board were

its vision, commitment, and leadership as policy makers; commitment to the improvement of student performance and evidence of academic achievement; evidence of strong community support for the district; cooperation among board members and the superintendent; and evidence of successful school-business partnerships.

Congratulations to the following members of the Lewisville district school board: Mark Shaw, Fred Placke, Carol Kyer, Anita Nelson, Tom Kim, Mike McDaniel, and Tom Ferguson for the honor.

I am delighted that your award-winning performance has garnered you this recognition. Your work is greatly appreciated.

The Lewisville school district has a history of outstanding distinction throughout the State of Texas and continues to pursue educational excellence. Every member is vital to the overall goal and performance of the board.

HONORING STEPHEN C. ROBERTS FOR HIS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DE- PARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Stephen C. Roberts, Senior Auditor for the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region. Mr. Roberts has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 30 year commitment to Federal service.

Mr. Roberts began his career with the Office of the Inspector General in 1978, as an auditor in Marlboro, Massachusetts, and transferred to the Beltsville, Maryland, office later that year. In 1982, Mr. Roberts moved to our Kansas City office. Mr. Roberts rapidly progressed with the Office of the Inspector General to Supervisory Auditor in 1985 where he has served until his August 21, 2004 retirement.

During his illustrious career with the USDA, Mr. Roberts was recognized for directing complex audits of management and security of information technology, as well as serving on Quality Assessment Review teams in Chicago, Illinois, and San Francisco, California.

He also received awards for audits of food service management companies and vendors performed at school districts located in seven States and Puerto Rico. Mr. Roberts was also one of the original instructors at the Office of the Inspector General Audit Academy started in 1988 and he also developed an Audit Survey Techniques training course for the agency. In 1984 and 1985, Mr. Roberts was detailed to the North Atlantic Region to act as a Supervisory Auditor over work being conducted in Puerto Rico. Mr. Roberts has had a diverse and exemplary career with a consistently high level of accomplishments in his many years of Federal service for the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Stephen C. Roberts, who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to the United States Department of Agriculture Great Plains Region and the people of the United States of America.

CONGRATULATING CROATIAN
SONS LODGE NUMBER 170

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the Croatian Sons Lodge Number 170 of the Croatian Fraternal Union on the festive occasion of its 97th Anniversary and Golden Member banquet on Sunday, October 3, 2004.

This year, the Croatian Fraternal Union will hold this gala event at the Croatian Center in Merrillville, Indiana. Traditionally, the anniversary celebration entails a formal recognition of the Union's Golden Members, those who have achieved fifty years of membership. This year's honorees that have attained fifty years of membership include: Mary Badovinac, Betty Balanoff, Mary Lou Brown, Matthew Guglielmetti, George Kepcher, Margaret Knack, Anastasia Kresich, Charles Lacko, Beverly Perko, Mary Plesha, Theresa Anne Young, and Mary Ann Zorich.

These loyal and dedicated individuals share this prestigious honor with approximately 429 additional Lodge members who have previously attained this important designation.

This memorable day will begin with a morning mass at Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Gary, Indiana, with the Reverend Father Stephen Loncar officiating. The festivities will be culturally enriched by the performance of several Croatian musical groups. The Croatian Glee Club, "Preradovic," and the Hoosier Hrvarti Adult Tamburitza Orchestra, will both perform at this gala event. The Croatian Strings Tamburitza and Junior Dancers directed by Dennis Barunica will provide additional entertainment for those in attendance. A formal dinner banquet at 3:30 in the afternoon will end the day's festivities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Lodge president Betty Morgavan, and all the other members of the Croatian Fraternal Union Lodge Number 170, for their loyalty and radiant display of passion for their ethnicity. The Croatian community has played a key role in enriching the quality of life and culture of Northwest Indiana. It is my hope that this year will bring renewed hope and prosperity for all members of the Croatian community and their families.

RECOGNIZING FORD MOTOR
COMPANY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize the introduction of the 2005 Ford Escape Hybrid, expected to roll off the assembly lines at the Ford Claycomo Plant in Claycomo, Missouri, beginning in August.

The Escape Hybrid is the first vehicle of its kind to combine hybrid technology with SUV capability. The Escape Hybrid can be powered solely by the gasoline engine, solely by the electric motor, or by using both working together. The hybrid system automatically

switches between pure electric, pure gasoline, or combined operation to maximize fuel efficiency and performance, and the Escape Hybrid is projected to surpass 35 miles-per-gallon in city driving. Additionally, exhaust emissions will be lower than many vehicles currently on the market.

The technology that makes the Escape Hybrid possible is revolutionary, and the fact that Ford has produced a hybrid SUV demonstrates Ford's continued leadership in the automobile industry. I am proud that the Ford Claycomo Plant, located in Missouri's Sixth District, will assemble the Escape Hybrid. It is a testament to the employees at Claycomo, especially since the plant already produces Ford F-series models and the Escape and the Mazda Tribute.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ford Motor Company and the Ford Claycomo Plant as they begin production of the Ford Escape Hybrid.

HONORING LOWELL C. KRUSE FOR
HIS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AS
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HEART-
LAND HEALTH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lowell C. Kruse, President and CEO of Heartland Health, an employer of 2,600 located in St. Joseph, Missouri. Mr. Kruse has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 20 year commitment to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

Mr. Kruse was born in Lake City, Iowa, just about four hours north of St. Joseph where he currently lives with his wife of 40 years, Leslie Marsden-Kruse. Together, Lowell and Leslie have three adult sons. Mr. Kruse began his career in 1967 as the Assistant Administrator of St. Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. For the next ten years, Mr. Kruse held leadership positions in a variety of health facilities in the Minneapolis area, before moving to New York in 1977 to become President and CEO of Park Ridge Hospital and Nursing Home in Rochester. Two years later, he became President and CEO of Update Health System, Inc. in Rochester. In 1984, Mr. Kruse came to St. Joseph as President and CEO of Heartland Health, and he hasn't looked back since. During Mr. Kruse's tenure as President and CEO, Heartland has been the recipient of the Missouri Quality Award, the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, and in 2000 was named one of the top 100 hospitals in the country for orthopedics and cardiovascular care. Mr. Kruse has been the recipient of the Justin Ford Kimball Innovators Award from the American Hospital Association, and the Visionary Leadership Award and the Distinguished Service Award from the Missouri Hospital Association. In addition to his work at Heartland, Mr. Kruse currently serves on the Boards of Directors for Premier, Inc., the Excellence in Missouri Foundation, and the Missouri State Coordinating Board for Higher Education.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Lowell C. Kruse,

who exemplifies the qualities of dedication and service to Heartland Health and the people of northwest Missouri.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
ZACHARY VIRGIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, an angel of light and love, whose brief journey here brought joy and love to his mother and father, Shane and Joseph, and to everyone who held him, loved him, and gazed upon him.

Forever perfect and innocent baby Zachary's message of giving and grace brought light and warmth into our world. He will live forever within the hearts and memories of his parents, and his song will be heard for all time.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Zachary Virgin, whose beautiful, brief life has become a miracle of life for others. We honor and recognize the love and courage of Shane and Joseph Virgin, loving parents of baby Zachary. We extend our condolences to you both, and to your extended family and friends, and we wish you strength and peace within your deep sorrow.

An angel of heaven, baby Zachary will forever soar with a song of life and message of hope for other babies: A baby breathes with his breath; a baby sees with his eyes; a baby lives with his life. Baby Zachary is their guardian angel, he lives on through all of them, and he will never be forgotten. May his life, love, and memory forever bring you strength, comfort and peace.

TRIBUTE HONORING THE 60TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR.
AND MRS. ALBERT JOHNSON, SR.

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Sr. on their 60th wedding anniversary. A celebration in their honor is being hosted by their children at the Galloping Hill Caterers in Union, New Jersey on Friday, August 27, 2004.

Albert Johnson, Sr. and the former Loretta Cobb were married in Newark, New Jersey on August 24, 1944. This blessed union produced six children, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. The Johnsons made their home in Newark before moving to Hillside, New Jersey in the late sixties. Mr. Johnson retired from the United States Post office after working there for many years. Mrs. Johnson was a homemaker and childcare provider. She delighted in providing a warm and nurturing environment for her young charges.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are deeply religious and they celebrate their faith at the Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church in Newark. Mr.

Johnson is a deacon there and Mrs. Johnson is a deaconess as well as a church mother. This couple embodies the spirit of matrimony and faith as they travel together to visit the sick. They also hold weekly prayer service at a facility for senior citizens. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson inspire others with their words of encouragement and their harmonious demeanors.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in letting Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Sr.'s family, friends and congregation know that their 60th anniversary is indeed a cause for celebration.

HONORING ASIAN COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Asian Community Mental Health Services of Oakland, California for 30 years of invaluable service to the community.

Asian Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS) was founded in 1974 with the objective of providing community based mental health services to the East Bay's Asian Pacific Islander Community. The services provided by ACMHS are unique in that they are designed not only to provide care that is comprehensive, but that is structured in accordance with the cultural background of the patients it serves. ACMHS services are available in twelve languages and dialects, and aim to serve Oakland's Asian Pacific children, adolescents, adults, and their families.

The role played by ACMHS in Oakland's Asian Pacific Islander community is truly vital due not only to the caliber of health service it provides, but also because of its continuous involvement in community life through the working relationships it has cultivated with virtually every major social service provider in the East Bay. ACMHS is able to maintain and broaden the scope of its services not only by coordinating with these organizations in order to deliver high quality health care to its patients, but also by sponsoring and participating in a variety of community-building programs and events such as the ACMHS Annual Multi-Ethnic Conference, and the recent establishment of the ACMHS Neighborhood Learning Center in Oakland.

On October 7, 2004, Asian Community Mental Health Services will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in Oakland, California. I would like to mark this occasion by commending this organization for the exceptional service it has provided to the community not only in its capacity as a health service provider, but also as a leader in working to strengthen cultural and community ties among the people of Oakland. By remaining committed to the areas of health and multicultural awareness throughout its thirty years of service, ACMHS has contributed enormously not only to the East Bay's Asian Pacific Islander community, but also to the 9th Congressional District as a whole. I salute and congratulate Asian Community Mental Health Services for 30 remarkable years of service.

IN HONOR OF THE JEWISH HIGH
HOLY DAYS

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in the Jewish community this time of year is marked by reflection thanksgiving, consecration, and celebration. It is a time to reflect on the events of the past year and be thankful for family and friends whose love and support guide and inspire us each day. And it is a time to rededicate ourselves to our commitment to tikkun olam, repairing our world, both at home and abroad.

It is also a time to remember our commitment to our democratic ally and friend, the state of Israel. Israel stands as a symbol of Jewish prosperity and survival that dates back more than 5,000 years. This strong tradition is why we must continue to work and pray for peace.

Over the past year we have again witnessed continued violence in the Middle East, but steps have also been taken to reinvigorate a peace process between Israelis and Palestinians. We must continue to support these efforts and remain optimistic that they will result in a lasting peace for all in the region. It is time for all parties to the Roadmap to use the opportunities presented by the Sharon plan to bring an end to the violence and achieve lasting peace in the Middle East.

As we begin the year 5765, we are also celebrating 350 Years of Jewish Life in America and American Jewish History Month. Last year, the Congress recognized and marked this anniversary by passing a resolution noting the important contributions of the American Jewish community to our nation's civic, social, economic, and cultural life. Indeed, as my colleagues observed, the American Jewish community has "sought to actualize the broad principles of liberty and justice that are enshrined in the Constitution of the United States."

In Congress, my Democratic colleagues and I are fighting to bring prosperity, opportunity and security to every corner of America. We are committed to growing the economy; to expanding access to quality affordable health care; to keeping our promise to our children for safe schools with well-paid teachers; to honoring our historic commitment to seniors so they can retire with security and dignity; to sustaining a healthy environment; to upholding the separation of church and state; to protecting civil rights; and to fighting discrimination in all forms.

I pray that we all experience peace, prosperity, opportunity, and security in the New Year. L'Shana Tova Tikatevu.

HONORING POW/MIA RECOGNITION
DAY

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is National POW/MIA recognition day. This annual day of recognition honors those brave soldiers

who served valiantly to protect our liberties but remain unaccounted for. America remains vigilant in its effort to see that each one of these nearly 93,000 brave soldiers are identified, accounted for, and returned to their families. Recently, I met with representatives from the Department of Defense Prisoner of War—Missing Personnel office and was pleased to learn of the Department's steadfast dedication to see to it that each one of these POW/MIA cases is resolved.

America owes an enormous debt of gratitude to those who have answered the call to defend our freedoms and there is no better way to honor that debt than to remain committed to bringing closure to the suffering for each of their families. We will never forget the sacrifices that thousands of American Soldiers have made throughout the world in the name of liberty and freedom, and we must do everything we can to help bring the POW/MIA soldiers home.

To date, the Department of Defense lists 1,854 Americans as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War. There are 1,415 in Vietnam, 377 in Laos, 55 in Cambodia and 7 in PRC (People's Republic of China) territorial waters.

I display the POW/MIA flag outside my office as a constant reminder to those who visit, that there are heroes who have not yet made it home. I encourage my colleagues to join me tomorrow in honoring these brave soldiers by renewing our resolve to close these cases and end the suffering caused by the uncertainty of their fate.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
SHERMAN HENDRICKS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Sherman Hendricks, United States veteran, beloved family member, friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Hendricks was committed to family, faith, community and country. He proudly and honorably served our country as a member of the United States Army, and was a veteran of the Korean War. Following his honorable discharge, Mr. Hendricks brought the integrity and strong work ethic that was reflected in his service to our country to his work and community service.

Back in Cleveland, Mr. Hendricks worked diligently at Anchor Industries and RBW Company. He loved his work and developed long-lasting friendships with colleagues. He was always known as a giving, caring person who would go the extra mile for anyone in need. His concern for others branched out into the community, where he was active in the Cuyahoga County Republican Party as a Precinct Committee Person, a position he held for nearly forty-two years. Additionally, Mr. Hendricks continually inspired others within his church community. He served as a Senior Trustee at the Antioch Chapel Baptist Church of Cleveland, and read Scripture every morning at 7:00 am without fail.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Sherman Hendricks, an outstanding American citizen whose

integrity, warmth, and concern for others has left an indelible mark upon our Cleveland community. I extend my deepest condolences to Mr. Hendricks' beloved sisters and brothers, Celestine Maudlin, Isabelle Hendricks, Napoleon Hendricks, Spencer Hendricks and William Hendricks; to his many nieces and nephews and to his extended family members and many friends. Although he will be deeply missed, the wonderful life and legacy of Sherman Hendricks will be remembered always by all whom he loved and inspired—especially his family and closest friends—today, and for generations to come.

TRIBUTE TO MS. BARBARA KUKLA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Barbara Kukla, an outstanding member of my community who has been the lifeblood of the community spirit and cultural vitality of my hometown of Newark.

She is a writer, a journalist, a historian, a mentor, and was the award-winning Star-Ledger Editor of "Newark This Week," a 4-page weekly section that highlighted events important to original Newarkers, helping to make local events more successful and creating a community meeting place for all our citizens. Barbara's thorough and sustaining coverage of Newark news generated public interest in local events, contributing greatly to the growth and development of our city.

Her love for Newark is not only limited to current events, but includes its rich past. She shared a great friendship with Miss Rhapsody, a legendary Newark jazz singer, who introduced her to many local musicians and piqued her interest in the thriving music scene. Barbara's involvement led to countless hours of research and writing, establishing her as the preeminent historian on Newark's prominence from the 1920s to the present, and inspiring her first book, *Swing City*. Her second book, *Defying the Odds*, follows the lives of eight of Newark's most distinguished women, and includes the biographies of 180 others.

Among her many honors, Barbara has received a Recognition Award from the Newark Preservation & Landmarks Committee, the Newark Community Development Network's Charles E. Cummings Award, the Newark Do Something's Lifetime Award for Community Leadership, the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Newark's Living Legend Award, and the John Cotton Dana Distinguished Lecturer Award, named after the founder of the Newark Museum and Library.

In support of the Barbara Kukla Scholarship Fund, Barbara will be hosting Newark Stars on Parade for Newark Students, a star-studded event which will feature a wide-ranging array of music by artists who were either born in Newark or have long-time ties to our city. Stars such as Gloria Gaynor, Melba Moore, the Monotones, Drinkard Singers II, Yvette Glover, the South Side High School Madrigals, Robert Banks, Carrie Smith, Kevin Maynor, Don Williams and Lady CiCi, Gwen Moten, BJ Plus Forty, Pam Purvis and Bob Ackerman, Carrie Jackson, and Gil "Bebop" Benson will all be on hand to showcase their musical tal-

ent in support of our students. The proceeds from this extravaganza will be used to provide college scholarships for Newark high school graduates and to aid others who are struggling to stay in school.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to my neighbor, Ms. Barbara Kukla, for her contributions to the civic and cultural life of our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations for her outstanding achievements which celebrate what is best and brightest about our city, and have brought such positive recognition to the city of Newark.

TRIBUTE TO THE PINELANDS CULTURAL SOCIETY

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pinelands Cultural Society as it celebrates its 30th year of incorporation with a special celebration concert at Albert Music Hall on November 20, 2004.

The Pinelands Cultural and Historical Preservation Society is a grass roots, non-profit, all-volunteer organization that has been operating in southern New Jersey for the past three decades to preserve the cultural heritage of the New Jersey Pinelands region.

The Society's goals include preservation and stimulation of interest in South Jersey's musical and cultural heritage. Running a live show 50 Saturday nights each year, plus special occasion Sunday shows, the proceeds, along with individual donations of time, talents and money have culminated in the creation of the present 35-seat concert hall building called "Albert Music Hall" which serves as a "living history" venue for the presentation of live acoustic music concerts in the decades-old tradition of people indigenous to the Pinelands area. It also serves as a repository for extensive historic archives including audiotape and videotape recordings, documentation and photographs reflecting life in the New Jersey Pines from the early 1900s.

Albert Music Hall has been inducted into the American Folklore Center, Local Legacies Collection Archive at the Library of Congress, and is also registered in the Library of Congress' Moving Image Collections Archive Database.

Thus, I am pleased to recognize the efforts of an expert staff of volunteers for their efforts in bringing New Jersey's history to life. I congratulate them, and wish them many more decades of success.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, in the one minute it will take to read these remarks, an Uzi can fire off 1,700 rounds.

Uzis and similar assault weapons are about to be legal again, as if we don't have enough to worry about in America.

For the past ten years, the assault weapons ban has protected Americans from these lethal, military-designed guns.

These weapons are not used for hunting animals. They are used to kill human beings.

The assault weapons ban has bipartisan support, both in Congress and across the nation.

Seventy-five percent of Americans want to see the ban extended. Even two-thirds of gun owners favor renewing the ban.

Yet the Republican leadership has refused to take action. Now, these killing machines will be back in circulation.

Good and decent people won't buy them. Those who hate us will, and we have just made it easier.

The President says he favors the ban, but he made no effort to get his Republican leadership, which controls both the House and Senate, to bring the issue up for a vote.

IN HONOR OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF LA PROVIDENCIA FAMILY CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Catholic Charities' La Providencia Family Center, a Hispanic Senior Center that exists to provide support, programs and services for Cleveland's westside elderly Hispanic citizens.

In 1984 several community leaders and residents within the Cleveland Hispanic community came together to address the issue of Cleveland's vulnerable and increasing elderly Hispanic population. The facility, programs and services that were developed twenty years ago have evolved over the years, but the vision, assistance and compassion has remained a constant source of comfort and hope for countless seniors and their families.

Along with providing vital services such as transportation, health screenings, home visits, social activities and events, the bi-lingual and bi-cultural Center staff and volunteers consistently understand and focus on the cultural and linguistic needs of those whom they serve. All services provided at La Providencia are offered without regard to race, religion, gender, disability or ability to pay.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the La Providencia Family Center—Cleveland's Westside Hispanic Senior Center. For two decades, the Center has existed as a vital lifeline to our elderly Hispanic citizens, providing hope, health and a true understanding and connection to the homeland of every senior who visits there.

TRIBUTE TO THE NEW JERSEY BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES COUNCIL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a landmark achievement of the hardworking men and women of New Jersey. This month, the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council will be holding its

100th convention at Caesar's Resort and Casino in Atlantic City, NJ.

The skilled craftsmen and women of the building trades have formed the backbone of New Jersey's labor movement for more than two centuries. It was the building trades, in particular the carpenters at the Hibernia Iron Works in 1774, who were the first to band together and strike for better working conditions. It was the building trades unions who consistently provided for the city and county trade federations that formed in the mid-19th century, for New Jersey's Knights of Labor assemblies, and especially for the New Jersey State Federation of Labor that grew into New Jersey's AFL-CIO.

The New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council and its unions led the fight for the 8-hour day, better and safer working conditions, strong pension and health benefits, and a living wage.

The NJBCTC and its unions built the modern State of New Jersey, from the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway, to Newark Airport and the Meadowlands. They built the high-rise casinos that light up Atlantic City's skyline, the new skyscrapers rising up on Jersey City's Gold Coast, the hospitals in which we care for our sick, and the schools in which we educate our children.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the New Jersey Building and Construction Trades Council and its unions deserve our gratitude, and I would like to offer my congratulations to President William Mullen and his vice presidents, representing each of the construction trades. I also invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing their predecessors who built the NJBCTC into what it is today, and to the tens of thousands of building trades craft unionists of generations past and present, who have built strong unions and a strong New Jersey.

CRS LETTER ADMITTING ITS ERRONEOUS STATEMENT IN A MEMO ISSUED DURING DEBATE ON H.R. 3313, THE MARRIAGE PROTECTION ACT

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on July 22, 2004, the House debated and passed H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, a bill that would prevent Federal courts from striking down the protection we granted to States in the Defense of Marriage Act. That protection allows states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriage licenses issued in other States if they so choose.

In the midst of floor debate on H.R. 3313, the Congressional Research Service issued a memorandum to the minority staff of the House Judiciary Committee, which stated: "We are not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior Federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress." Those on the other side of the aisle made much of this statement, and the statement was widely reported in the press.

I would like to set the record straight. The statement that Congress has never passed a

law that would deny Federal courts jurisdiction to hear a constitutional claim is false, and the most cursory review of American history shows that. The very first Judiciary Act of 1789 denied the inferior Federal courts original jurisdiction and the Supreme Court appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of literally thousands of Federal statutes under a jurisdictional regime that governed for roughly a century.

The Judiciary Committee majority staff pointed out these precedents to the Congressional Research Service in a letter sent on August 4, 2004, asking CRS if its position continued to be that "there is not 'any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress.'"

On August 16, the Congressional Research Service responded in a letter that states: "our earlier memorandum was incorrect." (Emphasis added). Let me repeat that. CRS admitted that: "our earlier memorandum was incorrect." CRS goes on to note that it recognizes "the fact that as written and construed [the Judiciary Act of 1789] did operate to preclude any federal court from deciding the validity of a federal statute from 1789 to 1875."

I would like to submit for the RECORD, in addition to my statement, the original erroneous memorandum sent by the Congressional Research Service, the letter to CRS from the majority staff of the committee requesting a clarification of CRS's views, and the response from CRS admitting its error.

So let the record be clear. H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, has ample precedent in American history, and the Congressional Research Service agrees.

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on the Judiciary, Attention: Perry Apelbaum.

From: Johnny H. Killian, Senior Specialist, American Constitutional Law, American Law Division.

Subject: Precedent for Congressional Bill.

This memorandum is in response to your query, respecting H.R. 3313, now pending before the House of Representatives, as to whether there is any precedent for enacted legislation that would deny judicial review in any federal court of the constitutionality of a law that Congress has enacted, whether a law containing the jurisdictional provision or an earlier, separate law. We are not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress.

[Letter sent to the Congressional Research Service from the Committee on the Judiciary]

AUGUST 4, 2004.

Mr. JOHNNY KILLIAN,
Madison Building, Library of Congress,
Washington, DC.

DEAR JOHNNY: In an undated Memorandum from yourself to Perry Apelbaum, the minority chief counsel of the House Judiciary Committee, you stated "We are not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress." This Memorandum was made known to us in the midst of House floor debate on H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, on July 22, 2004.

In the Judiciary Act of 1789, (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 85 (1789)) Congress provided no general federal question jurisdiction in the federal courts below the Supreme Court. (Footnote Text: See Richard H. Fallon, Daniel J. Meltzer, and David L. Shapiro, *Hart & Wechsler's The Federal Courts and the Federal System* (4th ed. 1996) at 33 (stating that in the Judiciary Act of 1789, "Congress provided no general federal question jurisdiction in the lower federal courts"). The federal circuit courts were vested with jurisdiction according to the nature of the parties rather than the nature of the dispute. The Judiciary Act of 1789 provided "the circuit courts shall have original cognizance . . . of all suits of a civil nature at common law or in equity, where the matter in dispute exceeds . . . the sum . . . of five hundred dollars, and the United States are plaintiffs, or petitioners; or an alien is a party, or the suit is between a citizen of the State where the suit is brought, and a citizen of another State." (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 73, §11 (1789)).

Further, and of relevance here, Section 25 of the Judiciary Act of 1789 restricted the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction over state court decisions to cases where the validity of a treaty, statute, or authority of the United States was drawn into question and the state court's decision was against their validity (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 73, §25 (1789)) or where a state court construed a United States constitution, treaty, statute, or commission and decided against a title, right, privilege, or exemption under any of them. (Footnote Text: Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 73, §25 (1789)).

Consequently, under the Judiciary Act of 1789, if the highest state courts upheld a federal law as constitutional and decided in favor of a right under such federal statute (and there was no coincidental federal diversity jurisdiction), no appeal claiming such federal law was unconstitutional was allowed to any federal court, including the Supreme Court. The Judiciary Act of 1789, therefore, denied the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction and the Supreme Court appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of literally thousands of laws of Congress in the many and various circumstances meeting the criteria just mentioned.

Congress did not grant a more general federal question authority to the lower federal courts until after the Civil War, (Footnote Text: See Act of Mar. 3, 1875, ch. 137, 18 Stat. 470 (1875)) and Congress did not grant the Supreme Court the authority to review state court rulings upholding a claim of federal right until 1914. (Footnote Text: See Judiciary Act of 1914, Act of Dec. 23, 1914, ch. 2, 38 Stat. 790 (1914)) Until 1914, then, a situation existed in which the constitutionality of literally thousands of federal laws could not be reviewed in either the inferior federal courts, or the Supreme Court, or both.

We are not aware of any doubt about these facts among scholars of federal court jurisdiction.

The Judiciary Act of 1789, of course, went far beyond what H.R. 3313 would do regarding federal court jurisdiction. While the Judiciary Act of 1789 precluded all federal court review of constitutional issues when state courts upheld any law of Congress (expressing a policy distinctly in favor of the validity of federal law), H.R. 3313 simply provides that challenges brought against one section of the Defense of Marriage Act, codified at 28 U.S.C. §1738C, (Footnote Text: 28 U.S.C. §1738C states "No State, territory, or possession of the United States, or Indian tribe, shall be required to give effect to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding of any other State, territory, possession, or tribe respecting a relationship between persons of

the same sex that is treated as a marriage under the laws of such other State, territory, possession, or tribe, or a right or claim arising from such relationship.”) be brought in federal court, and in no way favors any particular outcome.

Therefore, I am writing to ask you whether you continue to believe the statement that there is not “any precedent for a law that would deny the inferior federal courts original jurisdiction or the Supreme Court of appellate jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress” is correct.

We would appreciate your answer as soon as possible, but no later than August 16, 2004.

Sincerely,

PHIL KIKO,
Chief of Staff/General Counsel.

[Letter in response to the letter dated August 4, 2004 from the Congressional Research Service to the Committee on the Judiciary]

CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE,
August 16, 2004

MEMORANDUM

To: House Committee on the Judiciary, Attention: Philip C. Kiko.

From: Johnny H. Killian, Senior Specialist, American Constitutional Law, American Law Division.

Subject: Congressional Control of Jurisdiction of Federal Courts.

This memorandum responds to your request that we reassess an earlier memorandum of ours that was prepared for Congress in light of construction of an early congressional enactment.

In brief, during consideration of H.R. 3313, the Marriage Protection Act, in the House of Representatives, we were asked whether we were aware of any precedent for the provisions of the bill that would deny all federal courts, the Supreme Court under its appellate jurisdiction and the inferior courts under their original jurisdiction, of authority to review any questions pertaining to the interpretation of, or the validity under the Constitution of, 28 U.S.C. §1738C. That statute provides that no State, or other relevant jurisdiction, is required to give full faith and credit to any public act, record, or judicial proceeding that recognizes marriage between two persons of the same sex. We responded, first orally and then by a brief memorandum, that we were not aware of any precedent for a law that would deny to all federal courts the power to review the constitutionality of a law of Congress.

You have called our attention to provisions of the Judiciary Act of 1789, 1 Stat. 85, specifically §§11, 25, which you contend contradict our memorandum and do deny all federal courts jurisdiction to review the constitutionality of acts of Congress. We do acknowledge that the cited provisions of the first Judiciary Act do in some respects prevent federal judicial review of the constitutionality of some acts of Congress, with, however, some qualifications that we set out below. Nonetheless, there were, indeed, some circumstances under which federal court jurisdiction was denied or not provided, so that our memorandum was not entirely accurate.

Our response requires some analysis. As you point out and as it is the consensus of the scholarly community, the first Judiciary Act did not confer on the federal courts, both the inferior federal courts and the Supreme Court, all the jurisdiction that might have been conferred under Article III of the Constitution. (Footnote Text: See R. Fallon, D. Melzer, & D. Shapiro, *Hart & Wechsler's The Federal Courts and the Federal System* (4th ed., 1996), 29-33; W. Casto, *The First Congress's Understanding of Its Authority Over the Federal Courts' Jurisdiction*, 26

B.C. L. Rev. 1101, 1116-17(1985)). Thus, §11 of the Judiciary Act generally conferred diversity jurisdiction, with some limits, on the inferior federal courts, and a few other grants, but it did not confer federal question jurisdiction, that is, jurisdiction arising under the Constitution, laws, and treaties of the United States. So, absent the ability of litigants to obtain original jurisdiction in the inferior federal courts under some other head of jurisdiction, the constitutionality of federal statutes could not be attacked in those inferior federal courts. Some few instances of federal question jurisdiction appeared in the historical record, but it was not until 1875 when Congress conferred general federal question jurisdiction on the inferior federal courts, subject to a jurisdictional amount limitation. 18 Stat. 470.

However, such actions could be brought in the state courts, and the Supreme Court had limited appellate jurisdiction to review the state court decisions. This presents the focal point of the issue before us. Congress did not confer complete appellate jurisdiction over such questions decided by state courts. There were three categories of jurisdiction (Footnote Text: Casto, cited in fn. 1, 1118-20). That is, the Supreme Court enjoyed appellate jurisdiction:

1. Where the validity of a treaty, statute, or authority of the United States is drawn into question and the state court's decision is against their validity.

2. Where the validity of a state statute or authority is challenged on the basis of federal law and the state court's decision is in favor of their validity.

3. Where a state court construes a United States constitution, treaty, statute, or commission and decides against a title, privilege, or exemption under any of them.

Thus, the Supreme Court's appellate jurisdiction in these cases depended upon the particular results reached by the state courts. The first grant clearly recognized the federal interest in having one national, uniform resolution of the question of the validity of a federal law or a treaty, so that if a state court decision invalidated either under the U.S. Constitution the Supreme Court could review it. Only if the state court upheld the federal law or treaty did the Supreme Court lack jurisdiction. Obviously, Congress had in mind the federal interest involved in this situation, but it is nonetheless true that one challenging the validity of a federal law could not take that challenge to the Supreme Court if he lost in the state court.

Similarly, if a litigant challenged a state law as being invalid under a federal law and the state court upheld the validity of the state law, the litigant could appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and obtain an answer. But if a litigant was defending in state court a claim under a state law, including a contention the federal law was invalid, and that court held the state law invalid under federal law, the litigant could not appeal that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. So the way that §25 was worded did have the effect, at least in some instances, of insulating a federal law from a federal constitutional attack (Footnote Text: The law, incidentally, was not changed until 1914, 38 Stat. 790, as a result of the decision in *Ives v. South Buffalo Ry.*, 201 N.Y. 271, 94 N.E. 431 (1911), invalidating a regulatory measure under a Lochner-like application of the Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause. One may wonder how often this kind of thing happened if the law was not changed for 85 years).

Now, one can imagine that federal laws were not forever protected from constitutional challenge, that a challenge might only often be postponed. Just consider, the instance might arise in which a state court

invalidated a state law as in conflict with a federal law, and the losing party in the state court could not appeal that decision. But in a Nation of many States, thirteen when the Judiciary Act was passed in 1789, as compared to some 40 or so by 1875, when the inferior federal courts were invested with federal question jurisdiction, how many times is it likely that in only one State a federal law of general applicability that could be interpreted as invalidating a state law would be challenged. No principle of res judicata or collateral estoppel would prevent a challenge to such state laws being brought in many States and surely state courts would be divided. Eventually, the issue would come to the U.S. Supreme Court.

That the effect of §25 might only infrequently result in the constitutionality of a federal statute being insulated from review does not alter the fact that as written and construed the section did operate to preclude any federal court from deciding the validity of a federal statute from 1789 to 1875. Accordingly, our earlier memorandum was incorrect.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and observe the solemn anniversary of the unspeakable attacks of September 11, 2001, and in particular to express my deepest sympathies to the families of two American heroes, Naomi Solomon who died in the World Trade Center and Andy Garcia who lost his life aboard Flight 93.

Few events in U.S. history have been so jarring to our collective security and so unifying. The sorrow we all felt that day was surpassed only by our commitment to do everything possible to ensure that never again would we be so vulnerable and so unprepared.

Today, on the third anniversary of that fateful day, we must reconnect ourselves to the task of actually doing what has not yet been completed to make America safe.

While we've made progress, we cannot rest. Whether on land, sea, or air, critical security gaps continue to exist 3 years after the attacks of September 11. We have before us concrete steps, recommended by the 9/11 Commission, to address our vulnerabilities and to strengthen our defenses. Congress must reform the intelligence community by doing the following:

Create a strong National Intelligence Director;

Improve Congressional oversight;

Ensure an integrated terrorist watch list;

Strengthen the FBI's ability to collect and analyze domestic intelligence;

Create an integrated strategic plan for aviation and transportation security;

Improve airline passenger and baggage screening;

Improve coordination between FAA and military authorities;

Provide for the increased assignment of radio spectrum for safety purposes; and

Make the Select Committee on Homeland Security permanent.

In the aftermath of our Nation's tragedy, the American people wanted to know how we could help the families of the victims. Their response was to seek independent investigation of what led up to the attack on our country. We owe it to them and to our entire Nation to implement the unanimous recommendations of the bipartisan Commission to protect the American people and our national security. We can do nothing less.

GOOD LUCK TO NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COFFEE GROWERS OF COLOMBIA WITH JUAN VALDEZ COFFEE SHOPS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, during the 1960s, I lived and worked in Colombia as a Peace Corps Volunteer. I was able to see first hand the resilience, business savvy and general gumption of the Colombian people. One of the sectors in Colombia that exemplifies the strength of Colombians is the Colombian cafeteros, or coffee farmers. Despite the roller coaster that is the world market of coffee prices, Colombian cafeteros have managed to excel and continue to produce the best coffee beans in the world. Decades ago, Colombian farmers joined together and formed the National Federation of Coffee Growers of Colombia—a farmer owned and controlled organization that has worked tirelessly to improve the livelihoods of Colombian cafeteros.

In the 1980s the Federation recognized the importance of marketing and created, what is now a pop icon, the Juan Valdez logo. Today, I would like to applaud the Colombian Coffee Federation for reinvigorating the Juan Valdez logo by opening up the first Washington, DC branch of Juan Valdez coffee shop, located in the Washington headquarters of the Organization of American States building. Selling directly to consumers will help the Colombian farmers earn more for the quality beans that they produce and help increase the standard of living of the cafeteros. Again, I would like to send a special "felicidades" to the Federation for their work on behalf of Colombian cafeteros and wish them the best of luck with the Juan Valdez coffee shops.

IN HONOR OF ANDY MONTANEZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and welcome of Andy Montanez, premier singer from the beautiful island of Puerto Rico. For nearly 40 years, the salsa sound of Mr. Montanez has garnered countless fans in Cleveland, Ohio and around the world.

His love for music and exceptional voice was the driving force behind the immensely successful band, El Gran Combo. During the 15 years they played together, El Gran Combo recorded 37 LPs that included several hit sin-

gles. Mr. Montanez retired from El Gran Combo to pursue an international career. He joined the Venezuelan band, La Dimension Latina, one of the most popular orchestra's in Venezuela. His collaboration with La Dimension also produced several LPs and hit songs.

Today, Mr. Montanez continues to compose, play, record and tour with some of the finest Latin musicians around, including his grown children. His talent and enthusiasm continues to inspire and entertain fans located across the globe, yet connected through the universal language of music.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of salsa legend and premier Latin singer, Andy Montanez. His rich and powerful voice continues to uplift our spirits and nourish our souls—here in Cleveland, throughout Puerto Rico and around the world. Let the song begin!

A CELEBRATION OF YOUTH IN HONOR OF MADISON AINSLEY KNAPP

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth and life of Madison Ainsley Knapp, born born September 10, 2004. She weighed 7.6 pounds and is 18¾ inches. Madison was born to my Legislative Director Alan Knapp and his wife Jennifer Knapp. Madison was also welcomed into this world by grandparents Larry and Carol Knapp of St. Joseph, Michigan and Virginia McNees of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Madison is fortunate to be born to such a great family. We welcome Madison to the world with open arms and congratulate her parents and grandparents on the occasion of her birth.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF LEISURE WORLD—LAGUNA WOODS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Leisure World in Laguna Woods, California. It was on September 10, 1964 that the first residents moved into Leisure World, a private community designed especially for active, retired seniors. Within a mere three years, the community had grown to a population of 10,000, making it one of our country's earliest and largest age restricted developments.

Today, Leisure World is home to nearly 18,000 residents who enjoy a variety of housing options and social services, an abundance of recreational activities and organizations, and an exceptionally warm and welcoming community. Nestled in the rolling hills of South Orange County, Leisure World existed as an unincorporated part of the county for more than three decades. In 1999, the community made history when its residents voted for cityhood and the area officially became part of

Laguna Woods, America's first and only age-restricted city.

I had the pleasure of getting to know the residents of Leisure World when I was first running for Congress in 1988. And, for the past sixteen years, it has been a true honor to represent this unique and thriving community. In my experience, Leisure World residents are among the most politically aware and active of my constituency. Local political clubs have included me in hundreds of roundtable discussions, candidate debates, and "Get-Out-The-Vote" events. Leisure World TV has interviewed me on numerous occasions for its local cable show, and the community newsletter has welcomed my columns.

Most importantly, individual residents are always willing to share their informed opinions and suggestions on nearly any issue. Because of their insight, I have authored laws to reduce death taxes for seniors living in communities such as Leisure World, and to ease federal regulations that sought to outlaw age-restricted communities. I truly value my relationship with Leisure World, and I appreciate the opportunity to carry legislation on behalf of this community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere honor to ask the Congress of the United States of America to join me in congratulating Leisure World-Laguna Woods on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary.

REMEMBERING FIRST LIEUTENANT RONALD WINCHESTER

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 4th Congressional district of New York in remembrance of First Lieutenant Ronald Winchester, from Rockville Center, of the United States Marine Corps. I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Robert's friends and family, especially his parents Ronald and Marianna. Lt. Winchester was killed in the line of duty while heroically serving his country during Operation Iraqi freedom.

Ronald graduated from Chaminade High School in Mineola where he was a star on the football team. That did not change upon his arrival at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. He was a star offensive lineman during the 1999 and 2000 seasons when he had some memorable games against Army and his friend Doug Larsen.

Ronald had a profound love and dedication for his family and country. People could see this and were drawn to Ronald's outgoing nature. Ronald had an infectious personality and was a natural leader. It was easy for his peers, whether on the football field or the battlefield, to respect and admire him.

It is always sad when a person, such as Ronald, is taken from us. He will be missed but not forgotten. I ask people to remember Ronald and all of the other men and women we have lost. We must also pray for those still fighting for the ideals, rights and freedoms Ronald held deeply.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of perhaps the worst day in U.S. history, September 11, 2001.

No one will ever forget where he or she was on that tragic morning. No one will ever forget the selfless and hardworking members of our firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and emergency response workers when the two towers of the World Trade Center collapsed and when the Pentagon was hit by a hijacked plane. No one will ever forget the gallant acts of heroism that occurred on United Airlines flight 93, as the actions of several individuals saved the lives of thousands.

September 11th unified America and reawakened a spirit of patriotism and unity because it was on that day we were reminded that freedom is not free—that there is a price. With time to reflect on the terrible losses suffered that day and the threat of terrorism still present throughout the world, we realize now more than ever the debt of gratitude that we owe to those who place themselves in harm's way to protect our country and our people.

As I stand here before you today, we mourn for those we lost. Our prayers are dedicated to the heroic firefighters, police officers and emergency first responders, our military men and women and other ordinary Americans who have answered the call for freedom.

Again, as our country mourns and continues to heal, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest sympathies to the families of our heroes. America continues to be tested but we are strong and will persevere!

HONORING SENATOR HIRAM FONG

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor our friend and colleague, Senator Hiram Fong. Even though I did not serve with Mr. Fong, I admired his leadership in the Asian American community.

Senator Fong was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on October 15, 1906. He was one of 11 children born to Chinese parents. His work ethic was a good example to all that aspire to be successful. At the age of 4, Hiram caught and sold fish to contribute to his family. He worked hard as a shoeshine boy and sold newspapers when he was 7. Hiram attended Honolulu's public schools and went on to continue his education at the University of Hawaii and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Fong had a full public service career before he entered the United States Senate. He was a member of the Territorial House of Representatives where he would eventually gain many leadership roles. This helped him gain

support for statehood of Hawaii among his many colleagues. He also served in the Army Air Corp when he took a short break from the Territorial House of Representatives. He eventually retired honorably as a colonel.

The Senator is remembered for the many great things he did in Congress. He secured funding for the H-1 freeway which runs through Hawaii, established and nourished relationships between the United States and Asian and Pacific countries, and promoting civil rights by requiring auditors at polling sights to ensure minority voting rights.

He was also known for working in a bipartisan nature to obtain progress and policy for the citizens of our country. Hiram set an example for all who hold public office. Working with both sides of the aisle earned him a successful Senate record that many admire today.

Hiram Fong was a hard working man that gave a great amount of public service to the great state of Hawaii and our country. He provided big shoes to fill, being the first Asian Pacific American to join the United States Senate. I admired his courage and willingness when he defended the civil rights of the APA community and worked on the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. His true leadership contributed to eliminating the immigration quotas for the Asian and Pacific countries.

Senator Fong is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife Ellyn Lo. They had four children Hiram Jr., Rodney, Marvin, and Merie-Ellen.

My deepest sympathies go out to his family during this time of remembrance. Senator Fong will be greatly missed and his service will never be forgotten.

THE EXPIRATION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I come to the floor to protest the Republican leadership's refusal to renew the assault weapons ban. I have heard from law enforcement agencies across the country and citizens from my district urging Congress to take action and renew the assault weapons ban. It is unconscionable that this ban has been allowed to lapse and that we may again see assault style weapons on our street corners.

The assault weapons ban did not have to expire. There are several bills in both the House and Senate that would have extended the assault weapons ban and continued to protect our law enforcement officers from these dangerous weapons. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 2038, the Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003, and H.R. 3831, Assault Weapons Ban Reauthorization Act of 2003. Either of these bills would have successfully and seamlessly continued the protection established by the original assault weapons ban in 1994.

The Assault Weapons Ban has proven remarkably effective in reducing the use of assault weapons in crime. Since 1994, the proportion of assault weapons traced to crimes has fallen by a dramatic 66 percent. In addition, opinion polls show that 75 percent of the public supports the renewal of the assault

weapons ban. This legislation takes a commonsense approach that successfully protects the rights of those who collect or hunt and use weapons for legitimate recreational purposes, while also guarding the safety of our law enforcement officers.

On this issue, the Congressional Republican leadership has ignored the will of the public, the professional opinion of law enforcement agencies across the country, and even the views of President Bush who publicly stated his willingness to sign an extension of the assault weapons ban into law. I am saddened by this failure and I will continue working to reinstate the assault weapons ban and to provide our law enforcement officers with the greatest protection possible.

HONORING SENIOR AIRMAN KURT MARUNICK ON HIS SELECTION AS ONE OF TWELVE OUTSTANDING AIRMEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a man who has given himself wholly to his country and his community. Senior Airman Kurt Marunick, from Dundee, Michigan, has been selected as one of the twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year. He represents the standard of excellence in service for today's men and women in the armed forces of this country.

As part of this award, Senior Airman Marunick will be honored at the Air Force Association National Convention in Washington, D.C. In addition, he will serve as a member of the Air Force Association's enlisted advisory council for the next year.

Senior Airman Marunick is assigned to the 347th Maintenance Squadron of Moody Air Force Base of Valdosta, Georgia. He was recently deployed to Iraq from February to April of 2004, where he received the Air Force Achievement Medal for "outstanding achievement" for his service. His service is known to have saved many lives and contributed greatly to the success of numerous missions.

In 2003, he was named Airman of the Year for Air Force Special Operations Command. The two awards show a true dedication to his work and fellow Airmen. His efforts are truly commendable; he is a role model who serves in an exemplary manner.

Senior Airman Marunick is a life-long resident of Michigan, graduating from Dundee High School and Eastern Michigan University. Not only does he serve as an example for all who wear a United States uniform, but he also serves as a role model for his friends and neighbors outside of the Air Force. He volunteers for many different charitable organizations, tutors at local high schools, and founded the Moody chapter of Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in recognizing Senior Airman Kurt Marunick for all of his accomplishments. Our country is certainly a better place because of his efforts.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING
DOROTHY SCOTT

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, on November 7, 2003, I came to the House floor to honor and recognize servicewomen who served as Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) during the Second World War.

It is not an exaggeration that we owe a big part of the freedom we enjoy today to these women pilots. Their love of country and love of flying is something for which we will always be grateful.

Unfortunately, when I gave thanks to the thirty-eight WASPs who gave their lives in service to their country, I unintentionally failed to include the name of Dorothy Scott. Like the others, her courage is an inspiration for all Americans.

The complete list should read as follows: Jane Champlin, Susan Clark, Margie L. Davis, Katherine Dussaq, Marjorie D. Edwards, Elizabeth Erickson, Cornelia Fort, Frances Grimes, Mary Hartson, Mary H. Howson, Edith Keene, Kathryn B. Lawrence, Hazel Ying Lee, Paula Loop, Alice Lovejoy, Lea Ola McDonald, Peggy Martin, Marie N. Michell, Virginia Moffatt, Beverly Moses, Dorothy Nichols, Jeanne L. Norbeck, Margaret Oldenburg, Mabel Rawlinson, Gleanna Roberts, Betty Scott, Dorothy Scott, Margaret J. Seip, Helen J. Severson, Marie Sharon, Evelyn Sharp, Betty P. Stine, Marion Toevs, Gertrude Tompkins, Mary Trebing, Bonnie Jean Welz, Betty T. Wood, and Mary L. Webster.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Bordallo-Faleomavaega-Christiansen amendment to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act and I commend my colleagues, including Chairman DAN BURTON of the Government Reform Committee, for their support.

While I am sure my colleagues will address specific issues related to their constituencies, I would like to share with you my concerns about American Samoa's treatment under the Medicaid program. During the 108th Congress, I introduced H.R. 1188, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to provide for American Samoa treatment under the Medicaid Program similar to that provided to States.

I introduced this legislation for two reasons. One, each year American Samoa's expendi-

tures exceed its federal fiscal ceiling. Two, American Samoa, like every other insular area, pays a higher federal match than 40 other states.

Each of these points deserves discussion and I would like to begin by addressing the issue of federal fiscal ceilings. In fiscal year 2003, more than 36,200 individuals in American Samoa were Medicaid eligible and American Samoa received \$3.7 million in Medicaid reimbursement.

However, in FY2003, American Samoa's Medicaid program cost \$12.2 million and if American Samoa were treated like a State, the federal government would have been responsible for \$6.1 million (or half of the costs) and the American Samoa Government (ASG) would have been responsible for the other half, also \$6.1 million.

As it is, a federal ceiling is in place. For FY 2003, the federal ceiling for American Samoa was \$3.7 million, meaning that the federal government only paid out \$3.7 million of the \$6.1 million to which we would have been entitled if we were treated like a State, leaving a difference of \$2.4 million for American Samoa to pay for in addition to its own share of \$6.1 million. In other words, American Samoa paid the \$2.4 million which was over the federal ceiling plus its local share of \$6.1 million for a total of \$8.5 million in FY2003 Medicaid costs. The federal government paid \$3.7 million.

For FY2004, and as a result of our efforts to include provisions for the insular areas in the Tax Act of 2003, American Samoa will receive about a 5.9% increase or about \$460,000 in Medicaid payments. But an increase of a half a million dollars is not enough. It is not enough for American Samoa and it is not enough for the other insular areas. Like American Samoa, all other insular areas including Guam, CNMI, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico have federal ceilings in place that cap the amount of federal assistance they can receive under the Medicaid program. Although I have introduced legislation to specifically address American Samoa's needs, and although the other Territories have also asked Congress to intervene in their behalf, Congress has hesitated to assist us because of Puerto Rico's population.

Puerto Rico has a population of almost 4 million. American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and the U.S. Virgin Islands have populations which range from 60,000 to 150,000. Federal costs to reduce the match and increase the Medicaid ceiling for Pacific Island Territories and the U.S. Virgin Islands would be minimal. However, to assist Puerto Rico, Congress would have to shell out millions of dollars per year in Medicaid reimbursements and this has been the problem.

Time and time again, Congress has hesitated to assist the Pacific Island Territories and the U.S. Virgin Islands for fear this might open the door for increased Medicaid benefits to Puerto Rico. Quite frankly, I think we should all be treated fairly, including Puerto Rico, and I will continue to bring this matter to the attention of Congress until the matter is fairly resolved.

With a per capita income of about \$4,500 per year, more than 56 percent of American Samoa's population lives below the poverty level and all on-island health care is provided by the LBJ Tropical Medical Center. The LBJ Tropical Medical Center is a semi-autonomous agency of the American Samoa Government.

Construction of the LBJ Tropical Medical Center was completed in 1967. The in-patient wards have not been renovated since this time. The patient wards have no air conditioning and many do not meet fire safety codes and ADA standards and requirements.

While I am not asking for millions of dollars to address the inequity that currently exists in the way we provide for the healthcare needs of American Samoa, I am asking that the federal Medicaid ceiling be raised and the calculations used to determine the federal match for the States be applied to American Samoa.

Until this matter can be fully resolved by Congress, I am hopeful that my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, will support this amendment which minimally increases the Medicaid cap for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and CNMI.

Again, I thank my colleagues for their consideration of this amendment and I look forward to working with each of you to find a fair and reasonable approach to resolving health care disparities in the United States Pacific Island Territories.

THE HONORABLE CHARLES L.
LEWIS III

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor the life of Charles L. Lewis III.

Charles Lewis was a leader in the San Diego community, the city that I am so proud to represent in the Congress. During his 37 years of life, Charles contributed so much to the citizens of San Diego. With his passing on August 8, 2004, our city has lost one of its great heroes.

Charles's life is that classic story of one of the kids that made good. He grew up in the neighborhoods of Skyline and Paradise Hills in San Diego, where he was known by his friends as Chucky. At the time, these were tough, working class neighborhoods that were often forgotten by the officials elected to represent them.

Through hard work, talent, and grace, Chucky grew into a strong young man. He graduated from Morse High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University.

It was at this time, Mr. Speaker, that Chucky came to be known as Charles, and he came to serve this body. He spent his senior year of college interning for then Congressman Jim Bates and began what would be a lifetime of service to San Diego.

Recognizing his intelligence and dedication, Charles was hired by Councilman George Stevens to serve his constituents in the City's Fourth Council District, the very neighborhoods Charles grew up in. Over the next 12 years, Charles spent every day of his life serving the Fourth District. Remembering where he came from, he resolved to never let his neighborhoods be forgotten by City Hall again.

While working for Councilman Stevens, Charles developed many innovative programs that empowered and inspired the people of the Fourth District. He helped create 23 Neighborhood Councils that gave residents a voice to

take back their neighborhoods from crime and blight. He implemented graffiti control and tree replacement programs that helped beautify his communities. As a result of his accomplishments, he was promoted up the chain until he became the Councilman's Chief of Staff.

In 2002, after 10 years of effective leadership as a civil servant, Charles was chosen by his community to represent them on the San Diego City Council. His campaign platform was called the Three Rs: Reputation, Relationships, and Results.

On the Council, Charles made a name for himself as a strong advocate for neighborhoods and he built a reputation of being tough on crime. His efforts helped San Diego achieve the lowest crime rate among the 10 largest cities in America in 2003. This was a statistic that I know made Charles very proud.

While on the Council, Charles was known for his quiet strength. He was often reserved in public meetings, only to become vocal and outspoken when issues related to his neighborhoods were brought forward. He was a fighter.

He also wasn't afraid to take unpopular positions. Although an elected representative of the City of San Diego, Charles remained an avid Oakland Raiders fan—to the dismay of many San Diego Charger supporters.

Mr. Speaker, because of his deep roots in the community; because of his strength of character; because he never forgot where he came from or who elected him to serve; and because of his strong faith in God, Charles was beloved in the Fourth District and throughout San Diego.

Sadly, Charles Lewis died suddenly last month at the age of 37. He is survived by his wife Carlette, his mother Rosemary Pope, his father Charles Lewis II, and his sister Charis. And he is also survived by the over 160,000 San Diegans that called Charles their Councilman.

I am sad that I will no longer see Charles when I return to my district. That we won't run into one another at annual Juneteenth celebrations, community fish-frys and traditional groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting ceremonies. And I regret that San Diego will not have his leadership to guide us in the years ahead.

But, I am certain that Charles' memory will live on through his contributions to the community. Today, the Neighborhood Councils he helped create still meet. The trees he helped plant continue to grow. The lives he touched go on. And the neighborhoods he helped revitalize flourish.

We will all miss Charles L. Lewis III.

STATEMENT REGARDING THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY ACT AMENDMENT

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, Title IX established the principle of equal opportunity for all students and athletes, breaking down the institutional barriers to education that had beset women for decades. Its affirmed goal was to eliminate "discrimination based on sex." It quickly became clear that this milestone could

not be achieved by decree alone, and 2 years after the passage of the Title IX, late Congresswoman Patsy Mink of Hawaii introduced the Women's Educational Equity Act (WEEA) as one of the means to implement and establish those principles embodied in the language of Title IX.

The Women's Educational Equity Act addresses the social and cultural structures surrounding gender inequality. For 20 years, WEEA has provided Federal dollars for projects that promote educational equity for young women through competitive grants to public agencies, private non-profit organizations, and individuals. Most of the funds are directed to local implementation of gender equity policies in the academic curriculum and research and development projects.

In its 20 year history, WEEA has funded a variety of projects from the Women in Science and Environment (WISE) program in Boston which provides hands-on experiences in science and environmental industries for more than 300 students each year to the Stepping Stones Across the Digital Divide, a project in my state of California, which targets Hispanic females in grades 3 to 6. The goal of this project is to increase academic performance through developing computer and emerging information technologies. Collectively, these programs have made great strides in providing equity in education opportunity for women.

Republicans in Congress have steadily eroded the money appropriated to this program from its peak of \$10 million in 1980 to less than \$3 million last year. This year, for inexplicable reasons, Republicans have stripped this successful program of all of its funding, effectively eliminating it.

It is clear that WEEA has succeeded in creating unprecedented educational opportunities for women in all areas of academia. Since WEEA was enacted, 63 percent of female high school graduates enroll in college, up from 43 percent in 1973. Furthermore, the number of women earning a bachelor's degree from college jumped from 18 percent to over 30 percent. These dramatic academic accomplishments, pale in comparison to the strides made at the graduate level. In the ten years since WEEA was adopted, the number of women receiving medical, law, and doctoral degrees has spiked from 9 percent to 38 percent, 7 percent to 43 percent, and 25 percent to 44 percent respectively.

The Women's Educational Equity Act embodies the ideals of equal opportunity embraced by all Americans. It provides an environment where women are given the opportunity to overcome the institutional barriers to education that have existed for many years. WEEA's principles and programs talented young women's skills and interests in whatever discipline they choose. Most importantly, it is a program whose proof lies in the achievements of the women who have thrived in the years since its inception. Patsy Mink had the foresight to introduce this program and positively affect the lives of thousands of young women. In honor of the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink, let us carry out her vision of the implementation of Title IX and support this amendment and the thousands of women who can benefit from such programs in the future.

HURRICANES

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sorrow and incredible admiration for the people of the State of Florida, who have had to endure the damage and destruction of Tropical Storm Bonnie and Hurricanes Charley and Frances and who are preparing for the landfall of Hurricane Ivan. Not many natural disasters target an entire state, and I am comforted to know that even in the toughest of times, Floridians can work together and persevere.

These past few weeks have been very hard for the people of Florida. As our families were returning from late summer vacations and our children were settling into the new school year, the official hurricane season snuck up on us. While Florida's unique location between the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico makes it the most hurricane prone state in the Nation, no one would have imagined the loud roar that greeted us in the middle of August. We have been challenged by this abrupt and alarming hurricane season and one thing is for sure: the people of Florida are strong-willed and resilient.

We have had to board up our homes and businesses, pack our belongings, and pray. We have had to return to our homes and watch our neighbors pick up what belongings remain. We have had to wait in long lines to receive food, water, and gas. And we have had to do this while trying to maintain a normal life.

Florida's tourism industry suffered greatly because of the fear of these storms and the ensuing closure of many of Florida's greatest attractions, and the agriculture industry also has suffered deeply. The State of Florida has a wide range of crops and livestock grown and raised in her backyard. Our farmers and ranchers will be affected for years after the devastating effects these high winds have had on their crops. The total loss in Florida's agricultural production from Hurricanes Charley and Frances alone could cost more than \$2 billion.

Before this year, the State of Florida had fallen victim to seven major hurricanes and one devastating tropical storm in the past century, which makes this year's active hurricane season so unique. While much research has been conducted to help the National Weather Service detect hurricanes before landfall, the need still remains for an exact method to predict the paths of hurricanes and tropical storms.

The U.S. Congress recognizes the need to further research the impact hurricanes and other windstorms have on communities. As we have experienced these past few weeks, hurricanes can hit land with wind speeds in excess of 155 mph and destroy all that is in their path. The Nation's most expensive hurricane, Hurricane Andrew, made landfall near Miami in 1992 with wind speeds exceeding 175 mph and caused more than \$25 billion in damage. It is still too early to measure the monetary impact of Hurricanes Charley, Frances and possibly Ivan, and there are still six weeks remaining in the official hurricane season.

The House of Representatives approved the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act on

July 8, 2004. This bill establishes a multi agency National Windstorm Hazard Reduction Program which will improve the understanding of windstorms, windstorm impact assessment, and windstorm impact reduction. The bill authorizes much needed funds for research and development projects that will improve the understanding of the behavior of windstorms and their impact on buildings, structures, and lifelines. Through this research, the goal is to ensure the safety of buildings and homes from the destructive effects of hurricanes. Although approving this legislation will reduce the impact of hurricanes and improve the prediction of these storms, this bill will not help the victims of this year's hurricanes. Additional research is needed to protect our citizens in the future.

The road to recovery can not be accomplished without all of the help and outpouring of support that the State of Florida has received in the past few weeks. Thousands of volunteers have come from all over our great Nation to restore our electricity, cook us hot meals, provide temporary shelter and clothing for those who are now homeless, and help us pick up what remains of our communities. I am grateful for all of those volunteers and for all of the government agencies that are quickly and efficiently working to help the citizens of Florida stand up on their feet. We are indebted to your service and will not forget your help during these hard times.

IN SUPPORT OF H. RES. 2038: RE-AUTHORIZATION OF THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 13, 2004

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 2038, a resolution to reauthorize the assault weapons ban, sponsored by Representative CAROLYN MCCARTHY, member of the committee on Homeland Security. I thank you for your tireless leadership on this issue.

September 13, 2004, marks the day that we take a step back. Today marks the day that some Members will ignore the outcries of millions of Americans to extend this legislation, whose communities have been protected for a decade under the Assault Weapons Ban. On this day, the Republican leadership in Congress and the Administration have failed the citizens of this country by allowing this ban to expire. While some Members of these two chambers and the administration are content to play this game of "cat and mouse," the expiration of this progressive legislation unleashes unimaginable threats upon our society.

Mr. Speaker, we need not look too far in the recent past to know the terrifying effects of military-style weapons on our society. In 2002 John Lee Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo terrorized the Washington Metropolitan area for several weeks. While some Members of this body and the Administration may have forgotten, I can assure you that the D.C. sniper shootings left an indelible mark on the 12 families who suffered at their hands and many Americans. Just last year, in 2003, our society was plagued again by sniper shootings in Ohio. There have been 12 shootings linked to this Ohio sniper, who allegedly used a semi-automatic pistol in his shooting spree. Of course let us not forget Columbine and the more recent Randallstown shooting in Baltimore County—evidence that no one, in no place even our innocent children are safe from gun violence. It is impossible to ignore the impact of gun violence in our society.

Mr. Speaker, today we witness a political conundrum—we have an administration that believes that the War on Terror is a continuous battle, but then seeks to potentially arm the people who threaten our homeland, our security, and our safety in this country. By allowing the ban to expire, it demonstrates a lack of leadership, and undermines the very system we are currently trying to strengthen here in Congress. The administration's failure to push Congress to hear this debate, while at the same time announcing its willingness to sign the ban if extended, sends mixed signals. If the administration will not fight to protect millions of lives in the U.S. who inevitably stand in harm's way when the ban is lifted, how can it propose to effectively lead our country as we combat foreign enemies?

The importance of this ban is evident. Since its enactment, our Nation has witnessed a sharp decline of assault weapons used in crimes. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives notes that since the ban's enactment in 1994 that usage of assault weapons in a crime has declined by 66 percent, and the Bureau has recovered more than 1.4 million guns in our country. These weapons, which were illegally possessed, were either used in a crime or linked to a crime. With staggering statistics such as these, Mr. Speaker, it is hard to ignore the effectiveness of this ban. In my home State of Maryland, there has been an overwhelming decline of assault pistols used in crimes since the Maryland Assault Pistol Ban in 1994. The Baltimore City Police Department concluded that since the ban's enactment that 55 percent fewer assault pistols were used in crimes. Once again Mr. Speaker, with statistics such as these, we cannot ignore that this ban saves lives.

Furthermore, the administration has proposed deep cuts in the Community Oriented Policing Services program (COPS), which provides grants to State and local law enforce-

ment agencies to hire police officers, by cutting funding from 482 million to 97 million dollars. These cuts coupled with the expiration of the ban render our Nation's State and local law enforcement agencies practically unable to defend and protect citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude with these final words—the failure to pass this extension signals to millions of Americans that the leadership in Congress once again has not heard their pleas. This failure to extend the ban is only symptomatic of the failure of this current leadership and administration to hear the voices of this nation pleading for better healthcare, better schools, and safer communities.

How can we let this ban lapse when it has saved so many lives?

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5006) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes:

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Chairman, last Thursday, during the House's consideration of H.R. 5006, the Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education and related agencies, I inadvertently voted for the Hayworth/Boehner amendment. I would like the record to reflect that I am opposed to the Hayworth/Boehner amendment and should have voted against it.

The Hayworth amendment would have exempted more than 400,000 workers employed by tribally-owned casinos from coverage under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). While I strongly support sovereignty for tribal governments, I do not believe that Native American sovereignty was meant to deny the right to freely associate or collectively bargain to casino employees. A recent NLRB decision held—in fact—that Indian tribal enterprises are subject to the NLRB. In light of that decision, this House took the appropriate action in turning back the Hayworth/Boehner amendment, and passing H.R. 5006 without it.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, 2004 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

SEPTEMBER 15

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine accelerating U.S. assistance to Iraq.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine impacts of climate change.

SR-253

Finance

Business meeting to consider a substitute to S. 333, to promote elder justice, and the nomination of J. Russell George, of Virginia, to be Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury.

SD-215

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-485

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine how the U.S. can best utilize the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to advance its political, security and humanitarian interests.

334 CHOB

10:30 a.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, proposed legislation making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and proposed legislation making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005.

SH-216

SEPTEMBER 20

2 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine a new generation of older Americans redefining the new rules of the workplace.

SD-628

SEPTEMBER 21

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Karen Alderman Harbert, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs and Domestic Policy, and John S. Shaw, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environment, Safety and Health.

SD-366

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 784 and H.R. 1630, bills to revise the boundary of the Petrified Forest National Park in the State of Arizona, S. 2656, to establish a National Commission on the Quincentennial of the discovery of Florida by Ponce de Leon, S. 2499, to modify the boundary of the Harry S Truman National Historic Site in the State of Missouri, S. 1311, to establish the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain 400th Commemoration Commission, and H.R. 2055, to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number

of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 22

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by an oversight hearing on the contributions of Native American code talkers in American military history.

SR-485

10 a.m.

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine expanding consumer choice and addressing "adverse selection" concerns in health insurance.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lloyd O. Pierson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation.

SD-419

SEPTEMBER 23

10 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the current status of the Hard Rock Mining Industry in America, focusing on a status and trend analysis, a review of domestic mineral reserves, a summary on exploration investments and current production as well as permitting and reclamation issues.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 29

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be followed by an oversight hearing on lobbying practices involving Indian tribes.

SH-216

POSTPONEMENTS

SEPTEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the 9/11 Commission and efforts to identify and combat terrorist financing.

SD-538